

Life, the universe & everything

Picture, if you will, a time in the inconceivably distant future, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10^{15} years from now. The universe is a million billion times older than today. Stars are beginning to drift away from the edge of our slowly disintegrating galaxy, and the galactic core has collapsed into a massive black hole. The Earth has long ago been consumed by our red bloated sun, itself nearing the end of its life. Humans have shed their solid bodies and exist as an amorphous life-energy whose collective consciousness is measured in units of complexity and energy consumption against a background of steadily falling temperature. Even the speed of light, today considered a constant of nature, has by this time become measurably faster. And still, Life continues.

This is not the latest acid-induced offering from the sci-fi circuit. It is the astrophysical prognostication of one of the giants of modern physics, Freeman J. Dyson, the latest of McGill's Anna I. MacPherson lecturers in physics.

by Paul Stewart

Dyson has had the sort of career that most scientists would need several lifetimes to accomplish. One of the architects of the theory of quantum electromagnetic fields, he presently resides, at the tender age of 64, at the Institute For Advanced Study in Princeton.

A blatant idealist, he has been a vocal opponent of nuclear proliferation, Reagan's Star Wars, and other less violent wastes of money, such as the proposed Supercon-

ducting Supercollider. This 5 billion dollar monolith will replace the CERN particle accelerator, allowing for subatomic particle interactions 20 times more powerful. The resulting data may or may not lend strength to the Grand Unification Theory (GUT), which would pull together the four basic forces of nature, electromagnetic, gravitational, strong nuclear, and weak nuclear, into one theory explaining the events responsible for formation of the universe.

Modern physics deals with very

large time-scales, capable of being expressed only as powers of ten. Still, for the student of cosmological thought, the pattern of events can be seen as an extrapolation of the world's oldest writings.

Since the beginning of recorded thought, human minds have created cosmologies to explain the origin, actions, and ultimate fate of matter in the universe. Throughout these centuries of insight runs a basic theme of birth, destruction, and rebirth. Only the time scale varies from culture to culture.

Ancient Mayan cosmology set the age of the universe at several million years, whereas the Hindu writings saw the universe as being created and destroyed in a cycle of 8 billion years, symbolized in the dance of Shiva the Destroyer. The relatively young Judaeo-Christian writings, taken literally, set creation at only a few thousand years ago.

It was not until the 20th century that such myths found their place once more in reality...reality, that is in the rather ethereal terms of the physicist's universe.

In the 1920's, Edwin Hubble of Mount Wilson Observatory detected an anomaly in the spectral lines used to determine temperature and elemental composition of stars. The lines were shifted to the red end



of the spectrum; the more distant the object, the more the red shift. This showed that all bodies in the universe are racing away from one another at great speed. The expanding universe, predicted by mathematicians such as Einstein and Friedman, had become a reality. It means that, at some point in the past, the universe was much more dense, and appears to have been forced apart as in an explosion.

The radio astronomers, upon first turning their electronic ears to the sky, were surprised to find a dim

microwave hiss, apparently coming from all directions at once. George Gamow predicted years earlier that just such a 'background radiation' would permeate the universe as a result of the explosion which began the expansion. Thus was born the present theory of the 'Big Bang', stating that the universe was unfolded in eleven dimensions, literally from nothing, about 10^9 years ago.

The original eleven dimensions, by modern theory, quickly collapsed. continued on page 6

In the mind's AI

by Normand Cloutier

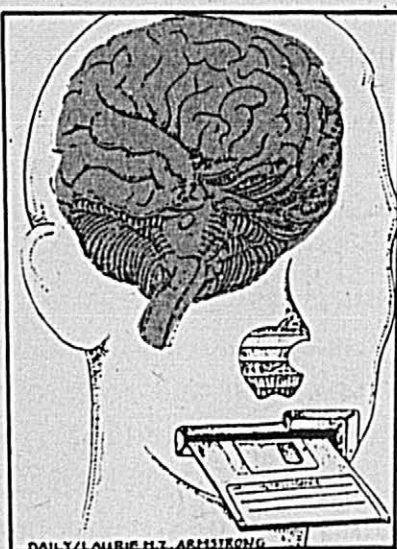
"The mind is about as abstract as digesting pizza," says John R. Searle, professor of philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley. In a nutshell, this summarizes Searle's opinion of the mind-body problem.

In his lecture *Minds, Brains and Computers*, at Concordia University Science College's public lecture series on October 15, Searle presented arguments to refute artificial intelligence in the strong sense and to dispense with the mind-body problem. To Searle, there are fundamental differences between a computer processing information and a human being consciously understanding.

Artificial intelligence in the strong sense (strong AI), as Searle sees it, is the relation that the mind is to the brain as the program is to the hardware. Weak AI simply attempts to employ the computer as a useful tool to study the mind. Searle has nothing against weak AI; it is strong AI that he believes to be deceptive.

He realizes that in refuting the relation of strong AI, he is faced

with the challenge of proposing another relation between the mind and brain. This relation must not be the same as that of a program to its hardware, but it must explain known phenomena of both the mind and the brain.



He disproves strong AI in an elegant manner — by asking us to imagine ourselves as a computer. Our task is to communicate in Chinese. We are given a rule book (written in our native language) that tells us that when given a certain

symbol (a question), we return back another symbol (the answer). We simply look through our rule book, match the question symbol to the answer symbol and return with the answer.

In doing this, we fool the user in believing that we understand Chinese when really we are just manipulating symbols that mean nothing to us. We are exhibiting perfect syntax of the Chinese language with no concept of its semantics. Since syntax is not equivalent to semantics, then running a program itself cannot be all there is to cognition.

As Searle put it, "If I don't understand Chinese solely in virtue of running a computer program... then neither does a digital computer understand Chinese or anything else solely in virtue of running a program because the computer doesn't have anything that I don't have."

Searle does not claim that a machine cannot think. He says that running a computer program is not sufficient or constitutive of thinking. He said that one machine can already think — a human being. So continued on page 6

Pioneer AIDS researcher

by Kim Fedor and Paul White

Influenza was the last great epidemic. A new global epidemic is impossible. Human retroviruses can't exist.

"All these predictions of the 1970's were wrong", says Dr. Robert C. Gallo, co-discoverer of HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1), the virus which causes the disease commonly known by the chilling acronym AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Indeed AIDS has become the first great pandemic of the second half of the 20th century. First described in 1981, AIDS is probably the result of a new infection of human beings that began in Central Africa, perhaps as recently as the 1950's.

Gallo, of the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland addressed a packed house at the Palmer Howard Auditorium last Tuesday. He gave an overview of the disease and its causative agent, as well as a discussion of recent developments in AIDS research.

"The field has moved remarkably fast," said Gallo. Only three years after the disease was described, its cause was conclusively shown to be the third human retrovirus. At first "it was thought that human retroviruses didn't exist," and proving that they existed was not easy. They were looked for using the electron

microscope; the result was negative. "The discovery of the human retroviruses was dependent on the technology which enabled the use of reverse transcriptase as a marker," said Gallo.

Reverse transcriptase (an enzyme unique to retroviruses) uses the viral RNA as a template for making DNA, which then integrates itself into the chromosome of the host cell. This flow of genetic information (from RNA to DNA) subverts what is usually called the *central dogma* of molecular biology. This central dogma asserts that the 'normal' flow of genetic information is from DNA (the so-called master molecule of life) to RNA to protein. Thus RNA generally plays an inter-

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...pioneer AIDS research

EXCUSE:

Dans le dernier McGill Daily français, la conclusion de l'article sur le film *Maurice* a suscité des réactions indignées par ces connotations péjoratives face à « la rhétorique gaie actuelle » (rhétorique=expression artistique). L'article n'était pas une attaque directe au militantisme gai ni aux droits des gais. Il visait plutôt à comparer ce film aux autres films commerciaux sur ce sujet. Veuillez excuser notre maladresse.

continued from page 1

mediary (transport) role between DNA and protein: not so for retroviruses.

It was exactly this fact that Gallo and his team used to conclusively show that AIDS is caused by a retrovirus. In 1978 Dr. Gallo and his team discovered the first human retrovirus HTLV-1 (Human T-Lymphotropic Virus 1). In 1982, at the same time his team discovered the second human retrovirus (HTLV-2), Gallo "speculated that AIDS might be caused by a retrovirus".

The epidemiological pattern of AIDS showed that it could be trans-

mitted by "sexual contact, blood, and congenital infection." This along with the fact that T-Lymphocytes were involved led Gallo on the search for the retrovirus which causes AIDS.

In late 1982 and 1983 Gallo obtained evidence of a retrovirus (different from those already discovered) in patients with AIDS. At about the same time Dr. Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris discovered what later turned out to be the same virus: HIV-1.

Gallo also discussed combatting the AIDS virus. "In order to combat AIDS you need to know about the life cycle of the virus," he said.

"The difficulty with the virus is that it hides from the immune system, it attacks the heart of the immune system (the T4 or T-helper cell). As well, the virus itself "changes."

"We're still not anywhere near home at understanding viral infections," said Gallo. He alluded to the fact that more research is needed where the AIDS virus is concerned, and for all retroviruses. "By further studies into regulatory genes we may gain important information into antiviral therapy."

Gallo also mentioned the new anti-AIDS drug AZT (azidothymidine).

AZT seems to interfere with the reverse transcription of viral RNA into DNA as a result of being "a chain-terminator in growth of new DNA."

Towards the end of his lecture Gallo discussed recent advances in AIDS research. He mentioned new evidence which seemed to involve cancers with HIV infections.

About a possible AIDS vaccine Gallo said that "vaccines are not as simple in retroviruses."

As a final note Gallo said he hopes to have more "conclusive results at the end of the year."

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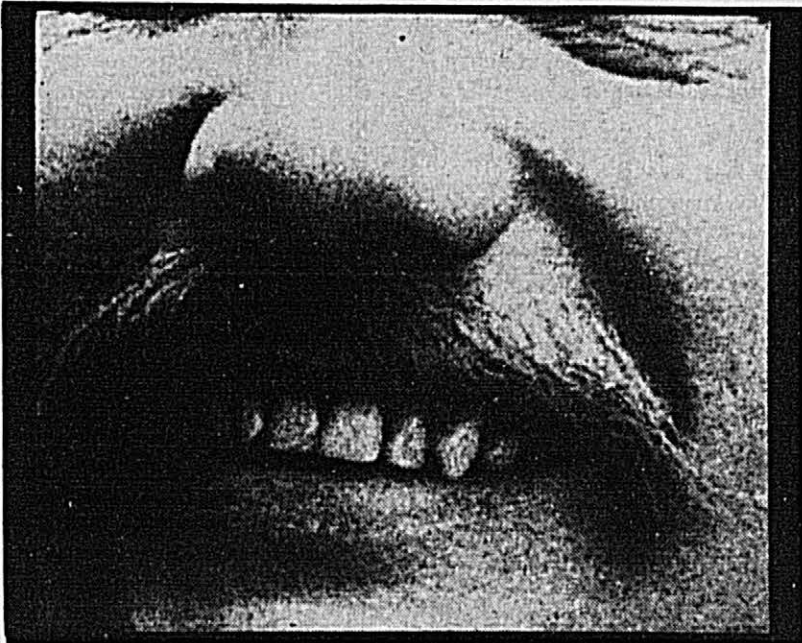
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The allergen is blowing in the wind

by Megan Durnford

Chances are you're allergic to urushiol.

It's the potent allergen contained in all parts of the poison ivy plant, that causes itching and swelling after contact. The only way to avoid this allergic reaction is to avoid the poison ivy plant.



Euell Gibbons, a late natural foods advocate claimed that one can desensitize the immune (defence) system to this plant by eating its leaves. Nonsense, according to most medical authorities.

An allergic reaction is basically an over-reaction of a very sensitive immune system. When an allergen enters the body, white blood cells mobilize and secrete antibodies (specialized proteins directed against the allergen).

IgE (short for immunoglobulin E), the antibody associated with allergic reactions, binds to mast cells or basophils (specialized white blood cells involved in allergic response). Both of these white blood cells contain histamine and products of arachidonic acid metabolism such as prostaglandins. On second exposure the allergen connects two IgE molecules thereby triggering mediator release from the mast cells to which each is bound.

Hypersensitive people produce more IgE for a given level of allergen exposure than the rest of the population. They also have more attachment sites for IgE on mast cells, thus the likelihood of two IgE molecules linking together is higher.

Common allergic symptoms such as congestion in the nose, itchy eyes and local swelling can be treated with traditional antihistamines found in products such as Dristan and Sinutab. These drugs competitively block histamine action on smooth muscle and capillary per-

meability, thus reducing inflammation of irritated tissue. However they can also cause drowsiness.

'New' antihistamines like astemizole and terfenadine can not cross the blood-brain barrier and consequently have no sedative effect.

Ephedrine, another anti-allergy drug, has been used in China for over 2000 years and was introduced

results in the reduction of nasal congestion. However, "if it's used as a nasal spray, there is a rebound effect after the drug wears off," said Dr. Deborah Danoff, Chair of the McGill University training program in Internal Medicine. This means that after the drug wears off the user may experience worse congestion.

Each year in North America, more than \$300 million is spent on allergy medication. Much of this amount is spent by hay fever sufferers, ten per cent of the population.

Hayfever (inflammation of mucous membranes) is often caused by ragweed but can also be provoked by woodworking and animal contact. Abundant in Montréal, ragweed has been so important in the history of medicine that "it's exhibited at the Montréal Botanical Gardens," said Danoff.

Allergy to plant pollen or animal dandruff may be easy for the sufferer to recognize. Many people however are unaware that their allergic symptoms are caused by dust mites. These potential allergens live in shed skin. To rid oneself of them requires freezing mattress wool blankets and serious vacuuming.

Urticaria (hives), an allergic reaction involving the skin, can be iden-



tified by a welt-like swelling that is intensely itchy. It's not mediated by IgE antibodies and is characterized by the presence of macrophages (scavenger cells) at the inflammation site. Urticaria can develop in hypersensitive individuals following exposure to certain drugs such as penicillin and foods like milk or eggs. Some food dyes such as tartrazine (yellow dyes) and sulphites (preservatives) have been implicated in the development of urticaria.

Many unfortunate Canadians are allergic to cold temperatures (cold urticaria). This condition can be a secondary phenomenon "associated with infectious mononucleosis and other viral illnesses or it may be a chronic disease," said Dr. Paul Kasirer, an allergist at the Jewish General Hospital.

Allergies can range from being a nuisance to a life threatening situation. In some hypersensitive individuals allergens such as bee venom and shellfish can provoke hypotension (extremely low blood pressure) and shock.

Allergen avoidance is the simplest way to deal with hypersensitivity, so hayfever sufferers have a good reason to visit ragweed-free Europe.

The Oracle speaks

by Kim Binsted

How do hair perms make your hair curl?

Chris Alexander
U3 Arts

Basically, perms rip your hair apart and put it back together again the way you want it.

Hair is made up of long molecules of carbon and hydrogen called proteins. The first solution the hairdresser (or your Mom) uses breaks down some of the chemical bonds in these molecules, allowing them to be bent and shaped. The number of bonds broken, and hence the amount of "permanent wave" produced, depend on the pH of the solution.

The second solution used, the neutralizer, stops the first solution from doing any further damage and allows the molecules to reconnect in their new shape.

The curlers are then removed and, depending on the skill of the hairdresser and the luck of the victim, screams of terror or cries of joy abound.

How do hair removers remove hair?

Don McGerrigle

Lotion hair removers, Neat and Nair to name a couple, work in much the same way as perm solutions do — by breaking down the chemical bonds in hair proteins.

However, besides being stronger, hair removers do contain one essential ingredient that perm solutions do not: an enzyme which ensures that only hair proteins are destroyed, and not skin proteins. If this were not the case, people seeking smooth, sexy legs might end with no legs at all.

How does Grecian Formula get the grey out of your hair?

David Johnston

Hair is coloured by pigments produced in the scalp. When these pigments dry up, whether from accumulation of years or midterm stress, the hairs lose their colour and turn white or grey.

When this perfectly natural process is noticed by the owner of said hairs, panic strikes. In a grand effort to deny the passing of the years (or the failing of exams, as the case may be), a greyie will often turn to such remedies as Grecian Formula

to restore their natural colour without dying.

These formulas contain the necessary ingredients for pigment production and conditioners for scalp and hair to aid pigment flow. Because it is the scalp that determines hair colour, the new pigment will be the same as the original. Thus, the grey is gradually replaced by natural colour.

By the way, grey hair is *not* dead hair. When properly cared for, a grey head of head will continue to grow healthily until other dermatological factors tell it to stop.

Thanks to Marc Pilon

events

McGill Film Society presents D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*, 19h30 in the Union Ballroom, free.

Religious Studies Students' Assoc. presents the film *Reflections on Life, Death and Dying*, 12h00 in the Birks' Building, 3520 University St.

Religious Studies Students' Assoc. presents a concert of traditional Tibetan folk music by Phubten Samdup, 13h00 in the Birks' Building.

McGill Outing Club general meeting, 19h30 in Leacock 232.

Gwynne Dyer, presentation of *War, Part 3, The profession of arms*, 12h15 in Union 310.

Carmen Diaz and Juan Ortega will speak on *Nicaraguan youth*, 20h30 in Concordia's Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W., room 1070.

Central American Group presents Ron Spector on *A thread of hope: a slide presentation on*

women, weaning and cooperatives in the highlands of Guatemala, 17h00 in Union 310

South African Committee joint South African Committee/Black Students Network meeting, 18h45 in the international students lounge.

World Federalists of Canada present *The youth nuclear disarmament tour in Canada and the soviet union*, 19h30 at The MacDonald-Stewart Foundation, 1195 Sherbrooke St. W..

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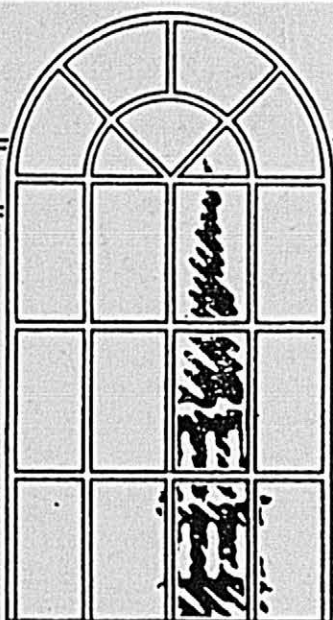
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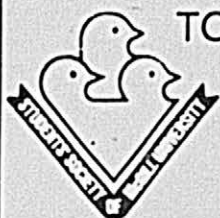
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- 2) Students' Society Constitutional Amendments (2 questions)
- 3) McGill Daily Fee Increase



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Football

The Redmen extended their winning streak to four games by squeaking past Ottawa 18-15 on Saturday. They are now 5-2 in OQIFC action, their best league record since the 1981 season. McGill's Defensive Player of the Game was Vincent Gagné, who, winning the award for the third time this season, compiled 7 assisted tackles against Ottawa. Offensive Player of the Game was 4th year, Ottawa-born engineering student Bruno Pietrobon, who caught 9 passes for 88 yards and one touchdown. Special Teams award went to kicker Chuch Petitpas, who kicked three field goals in 4 attempts.

Four McGill players have been named to the OQIFC All-Conference Team, running back Mike Soles and centre Al Lekun repeating as all-stars. Other players named are linebacker Wayne McRae and defensive back Vincent Gagné.

OQIFC playoff action kicks off at 13h00 Hallowe'en Saturday, with the Redmen hosting rival Queen's Golden Gaels. The Redmen have not defeated the Golden Gaels in a playoff game since 1962, and last won a home playoff game in 1902. However, we can't forget that Homecoming Humiliation last week. P.S. Hopefully, Soles will be back on the field this weekend.

Soccer

The Redmen extended that streak (you know, the undefeated, home game, regular season one) to 42 on the weekend, defeating Concordia 1-0. Pointe Claire native John Hayward scored the single goal, upping his record to nine goals in nine games. Kosta Kouremenos registered his fourth shutout this season, winning the QUAA Athlete of the Week award for his efforts. The first place Redmen go into the last week of regular season play one point ahead of Concordia, with a magic number of 3 points with one game remaining to capture first place.

The Redmen travel to Sherbrooke to play the Vert et Or today at 20h00. The QUAA Semi-Final, between the 2nd and 3rd place teams, takes place Sunday, November 1.

The Martlets were shutout 1-0 by the visiting Sherbrooke Vert et Or over the weekend. They finished second in QUAA regular season standings, but go into playoffs without scoring leader Melinda Whiteside, injured two weeks ago.

The Martlets host the Concordia Lady Stingers Sunday, November 1, at 12h00.

Hockey

The Redmen had a strong showing this weekend by tying RMC Redmen 5-5 on Friday, and beating NCAA Division III champs, Plattsburgh State Cardinals, 9-5 in non-conference action. Tim Iannone, winner last week of both the QUAA and CIAU Athlete of the Week awards, had a six-point weekend, with 2 goals in each game. Rookie Martin Raymond, from Pierrefonds, Quebec, had 1 goal and 2 assists against RMC, to be named the game's first star. Peterborough native Paul Pulver continues to lead rookie scoring with 1 goal and 6 assists.

McGill hosts Concordia Friday, October 30 at 19h30, on the tail of back-to-back victories at the end of last season, despite a 12-44-4 lifetime record against the Stingers. This is also the "Friends of McGill Hockey" homecoming. Look out for such notable former Redmen as Brian O'Neil, NHL Executive Vice President, and Dick Irvin (you all know who he is, don't you?), as well as former NHL'ers Jack Gelineau and Reggie Sinclair. The Redmen play the Ottawa Gee-Gee's in Ottawa Sunday, November 1 at 19h30.

Basketball

Redmen alumni topped today's tribe 75-69 in the annual alumni game. Alumni Bernie Rosanelli and Simon Onabowale each contributed 2 points, while top Redmen scorers were David Steiner with 27 points and Adrian Bak with 15.

The Redmen host RMC Friday October 30 at 20h30, and Queen's Hallowe'en eve at 19h30.

The Martlets took their second tournament in two weeks by defeating Western and Ottawa at the Queen's Invitational Tournament. Rookie Mirjana Jurcic, from Prince George, B.C. led her team to a 64-47 victory over Western with 12 points. Helene Cowan and Julie Rousseau each added 10. Cowan led the scoring against Ottawa Rookies with 31 points and 9 rebounds.

The Martlets are busy all weekend, hosting the Brandon Bobcats on Friday, October 30 at 18h30, and the Dalhousie Tigers at 17h00 on Hallowe'en.

Miscellaneous

The Martlets field hockey team fared poorly at the playoffs over the weekend, losing 12-0 to Toronto, 2-0 to Queen's, and tying Carleton 0-0. The women's rugby team played in the Provincial Finals, losing 11-4 to John Abbot College. McGill finished 2nd in the province. The swim team starts their season at the Brock Invitational Meet, October 30 and 31. The rowing team was idle last weekend, but training hard for the upcoming OUAA finals in St. Catharines.

The Daily is cancelling the issue of
November 3rd, due to a lack of funds.
Advertisers interested in an issue on the
18th of November should contact the Daily
business office at 398-6790.

feature

Where th

by Mathew Copas

For thousands of years
elephants and humans
have peacefully lived
side by side. But in the
past thirty years, the balance that
existed has been dramatically
tilted towards humans.

Illegal trade in tusks and the
rapidly growing human popula-
tion have greatly reduced their
numbers. Africa, a continent that
thirty years ago was a sea of
wildlife with pockets of people is
now the opposite. The image that
Westerners have of a land where
wild animals roam freely is
changing at an alarming rate.

In the majority of African
countries the elephant population
is plummeting. The current
elephant population is *roughly
estimated* to be as high as 1.2
million, but it is falling by 50,000
to 100,000 every year. Most of the
trade in ivory is illegal.

In some African countries
elephants are virtually extinct and
each year tens of thousands fall to
poachers. Their ivory, which
becomes anything from knife
handles to piano keys, feeds
insatiable demands in North
America, Hong Kong and Japan.

Africa's quickly expanding
population is partly a result of
improved medical care. Ironically,
in the struggle to improve human
conditions, the animal population
has come under tremendous
threat. The declining elephant
population is also a result of
political upheaval in several
African states.

The political unrest present in
many African countries (for
example Mozambique) makes it
difficult to impose any law that
would seek to protect humans or
animals. Poachers have a virtual-
carte blanche in some countries.

The West is also a massive
consumer of non-ivory products.
Land in Africa, inhabited by
elephants and other animals, is
increasingly being taken over by
Western corporations. Cows, for
example, are grazed on the
savannah and provide a source of
cheap meat for European coun-
tries.

But the demand for ivory
remains the elephants' greatest
enemy. According to Ian Red-
mond, an member of Britain's
Care for the Wild, imposing
quotas is a poor solution. He said
that, like the drug trade, it will
simply drive the trade under-
ground. Where there is a demand
elephant tusks will continue to
reach the market.

According to Steven Best, the
vice-chair in Canada for the
International Coalition of Wild-

e elephants roamed

life, one of the greatest tasks is to educate people about the severity of the problem. "Because we have such a well established media," he said, "we can create an ethic not to buy ivory."

Many environmentalists argue that the West has a responsibility to African nations. The tough guidelines suggested by developed nations are almost impossible to implement in financially strapped African countries. There is consensus among African governments that the elephants must be protected, but the strict rules meant to protect them are rarely enforced.

Government corruption in African governments is also a factor in the elephants' declining population. When Idi Amin seized power, he allowed his soldiers to gun down elephants on game reserves with machine guns.

In 1976, Zaire joined the Convention on International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). A ban was issued on hunting, but thousands of elephants were killed the following year. The president then ordered a halt to the massacre. It was later discovered that many of the permits granted were to various firms whose owner was well placed in the government.

The temptation to poach is especially great for farmers. From one tusk they can earn more than they would in a year or two of work.

According to Best, "It is not only a matter of corruption. There is a solid concern about saving the elephants. It takes a very short period of time to shoot an elephant... It's the same kind of corruption as there is in the drug trade. Rewards are great. Wardens in Zaire went for three months without pay. They finally lent their rifles to poachers. There is corruption, but the African people are not at the heart of it."

Business interests outside Africa, operating legally but on questionable ethical grounds, fuel the corruption. Investing in ivory as a hedge against inflation has become more and more popular. As the elephant population declines the price of ivory increases.

The quotas that have been imposed have thus far had little effect. South Africa, a country that has a very good record for protecting its elephants, acts as a clearing house for other countries. Tusks are illegally bought across the border and then sold as South African ivory. In 1979, permits were issued for fifteen tons of ivory, but fifty-five tons of 'South African' ivory was exported.

In a 1980 conference in Kenya,

the necessity of 'culling' (selective killing of elephants for tusks) was discussed. Clive Walker, director of the Endangered Species Trust, said the "future of elephants outside of the game reserves is a lost cause... There is a tendency to see elephant survival from an esthetic, scientific and tourism point of view, without taking into account the human populations that live alongside the elephants."

In the academic community there are a number of people who believe that the only way to preserve the elephants is through culling. In *A Struggle for Survival*, professor John Hanks argued that an "elephant has no place in modern Africa unless it has an economic value for man's expanding population."

There has been strong criticism of countries like South Africa, who practice culling. Families are taken as a whole, and one member is shot. This leaves the others easy targets. "Instead of fleeing, the other animals press around the victims in helpless confusion and search for protection, unwilling to abandon their dying companions. They themselves then get shot. Elimination of an entire family is easy," wrote Hanks.

Authorities in South Africa justify this method, arguing that to shoot only one would leave 'witnesses' and encourage aggressive behavior among the survivors. Many environmentalists are opposed to culling and believe that tusks should only be taken from elephants who have died of natural causes.

The various solutions on how to protect the elephant population

have been heating up, as human population in the sub-Sahara increases by 3 per cent a year. Farmers argue that the elephants are destructive. It is generally conceded that both humans and elephants have the ability to affect the environment on a large scale.

Elephants can go through an area and decimate it. This has always been the case, but until recently it was not really a problem. Elephants could simply move on to another area and let the old grazing land recover. On reserves, where elephant movement is restricted, the effects of elephant habitation are more harmful. Forests can be turned into little more than scrub.

According to Best, "The very thing that elephants do to improve the environment is what we call damage."

Without human interference, elephants largely have a positive role in the ecosystem. According to Best, "When they go through a forest, they open up a funnel to

small regions of the forest and allow new seedling to grow and create burrows for small animals."

Delise Alison, zoological curator of McGill's Redpath museum, spent several years in Africa. On the subject of elephants, she explained that, "River beds begin to dry up and the length of the dry season is so very long that after four months there is very little surface water. Elephants dig it out. Birds are incapable of digging water... There are a number of invertebrates who scavenge on what elephants leave behind and help keep the forest clear."

Apart from culling, one of the more controversial methods in managing the elephant population has been that of establishing safari reserves, like the Kruger National Park in South Africa. In countries like Zimbabwe, some farmers have turned over their land to elephants, but these reserves are operated on a business level. One hunter argued that, "You cannot be sympathetic about wildlife. It has to pay for itself."

And despite the efforts made to control quotas, the result have often been discouraging. In 1986, Eugene Lapointe, director of CITES, said that, "We're trying to put the poachers out of business and in two or three years we believe that the ivory business will be totally clean."

Last June, CITES gave an amnesty on ivory. The result was a massive slaughter of elephants and a channelling of ivory through Burundi. There was a backlash against CITES and an agreement that the rules governing ivory quotas should be tightened. But according to Best, "How that will come about is anybody's guess."

Since January 1986, a number of African states and importing nations have implemented a system of stamping all legally

imported ivory and this information is computerized by convention.

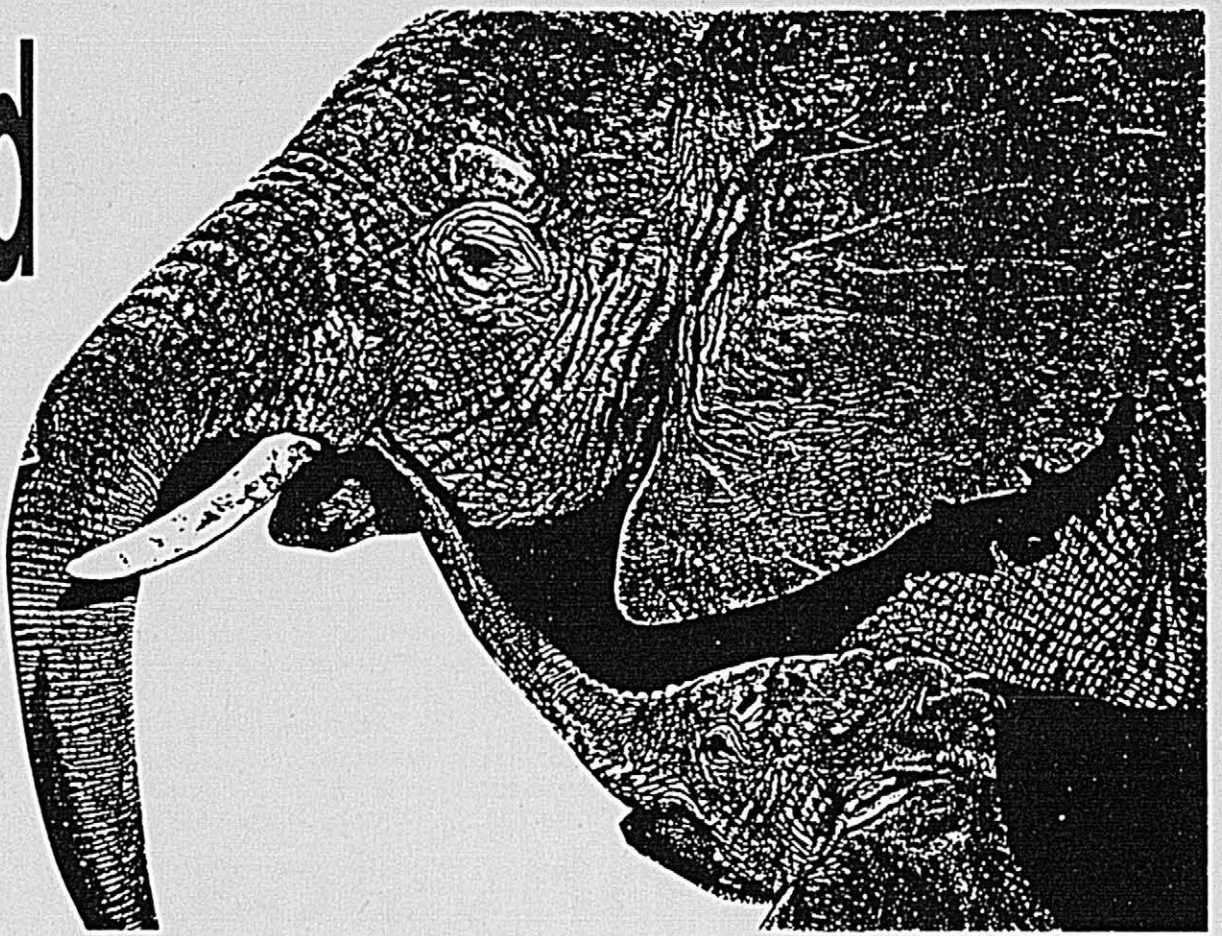
In assuring that poachers do not avoid quotas, there are possible scientific solutions. A California forensic scientist developed a method for determining the age of walrus tusks. With the evidence provided, numerous poachers were convicted. A similar age dating technique could likely be developed for African elephants. But even if it were, the obstacles would be formidable. In politically turbulent countries there would be very little opportunity to convict poachers.

Organisations like The International Wildlife Coalition (IWC) are doing their best to fight for the elephants' survival. One of their main goals is to raise money to fund research and protection of elephants on game reserves. Many of the wildlife preserves are understaffed and poachers have the upper hand. Any money donated to the International Wildlife Coalition (Care for the Wild in the U.K) would be put into the African Ele-Fund, run by Ian Redmond.

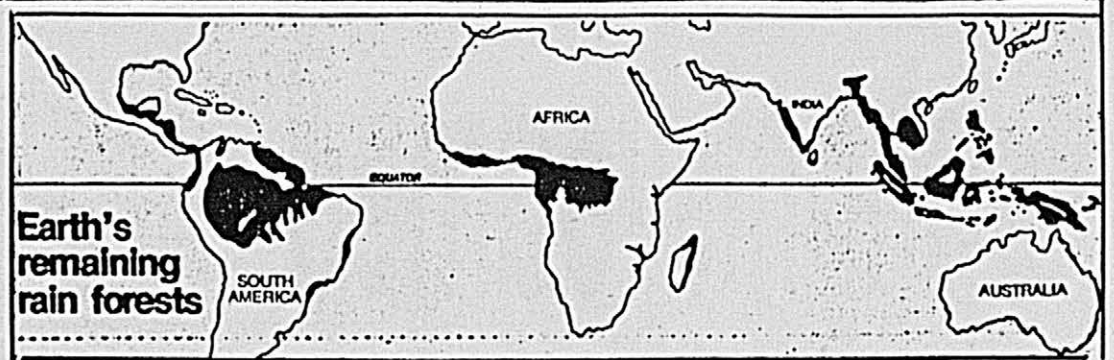
According to Best, "The first order of business would be to fund Mount Elgin National Park in Kenya. The problem is that the folks who work there only have six vehicles... It is a unique population of elephants who live in caves. Poachers shoot them as they leave the caves. Whatever money donated would go to repairing vehicles and research."

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing organisations like IWC is to change people's attitude towards buying ivory. As long as they continue to do so there is little chance that elephants will "pay for themselves."

Any donations made to the International Wildlife Coalition can be sent to the following address: P.O. Box 988, Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S0.



Where have all the rain forests gone?



by Tarek Razek

Rain forests cover six to seven percent of the earth's land mass, yet house approximately 40 to 50 per cent of all living species, with many more still undiscovered.

But when talking about rain forests, one must bear in mind that they are disappearing from this planet at a rate of 50 to 100 acres a minute.

Already, with a minimum of knowledge about this ecosystem, one-quarter of the prescription drugs used in the United States,

including potent cancer and cardiac medications, were originally derived from rain forest plants. The loss of rain forests would constitute an unimaginable loss to medical science.

Rain forests also play a critical role in modulating global climate by helping maintain the oxygen/carbon dioxide balance of the atmosphere. The carbon released by destruction of the forests is increasing the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels significantly, trapping solar energy in a 'greenhouse effect'.

This would accentuate the expected global warming, which could speed desertification in the tropics, cause flooding in coastal cities and a loss of farmland in temperate zones.

Also, many important crop plants, such as corn, originated in tropical rain forest areas. There are hundreds of yet unexploited edible plants that could one day be cultivated.

The destruction of this vast resource is mostly a recent occurrence. In the Amazon forest, for example, only one-half of one per

cent had been destroyed prior to 1975. Currently two and one-half million hectares are falling each year. That's equivalent to half the area of Nova Scotia.

The spread of agriculture, uncontrolled logging, and cattle ranching have already reduced rain forests in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to less than half of their original area. Critics say that governments see the rain forests as a safety valve where displaced workers can be resettled. But in many cases the land cannot sustain farming.

According to Marx Carneiro, a senior bureaucrat in the Ministry of Agriculture in Brazil, "Eighty-three percent of Amazon soils are mostly sandy, have low fertility, and are subject to unfavorable climatic conditions, i.e., heavy tropical rains that may leach away the nutrients."

The blame cannot be placed solely on developing countries; policies in Western nations are under scrutiny as well. Randall Hayes, Director of the Rainforest Action Network, an environmental group based in San Francisco, believes that "there's more to be done in the U.S. to save the rain forests than in countries like Brazil, because a lot of American tax dollars and American companies are financing destructive rain forest

projects."

Following a consumer boycott of Burger King beef launched by the Network last summer, the huge fast-food chain announced that it would stop importing beef from tropical rain forest regions.

But simple solutions are rarely the best, and some activists' measures may damage the economies of developing nations, forcing them, ironically, to expand further into the forests. A more effective tactic has been offering incentives to Third World nations to 'sacrifice' land. One exciting development occurred last summer when Bolivia agreed to create a 3.7 million acre rain forest reserve in exchange for \$650 000 of pardoned external debt. The sum was covered by Conservation International, a private group in Washington, at a discount price of \$100 000 from banks that had little hope of ever collecting their money.

Many such positive thrusts are occurring and interest is growing: the once notorious World Bank and the Third World nations from Malaysia to Ecuador are taking up their own initiatives. There is also an international conference on the topic scheduled for later this year at Hunter College in New York. Even though the process of deforestation is well entrenched, there still may be hope.

...weird physics

continued from page 1

lapsed into our normal three dimensions of space and one of time, leaving behind the proposed structures called 'superstrings', invisibly thin gravity fields which stretch across the entire universe.

Whether this expansion will continue forever depends on the amount of mass in the universe, a large but finite number. Sufficient mass would cause enough gravitational attraction between expanding bodies to slow the outward rush, and eventually reverse it. Under this scenario, called a 'closed universe', the Big Bang would be followed by a Big Crunch, the pressure of which would annihilate matter to the state found at the Big Bang, causing another expansion.

This sort of talk is all rather de-

pressing to the likes of Dyson, to the point that he firmly disbelieves the existence of neutrinos with mass, and other forms of 'dark matter', mass hidden from astronomers' view, which would make up the difference needed to reverse expansion.

If Dyson is right, in 10^{11} years things will be so far apart that galaxies will disintegrate, some stars being lost, others collapsing in the galactic cores into massive black holes. By 10^{21} years, the protons of atomic nuclei will begin to decay to the point that life as we know it will be impossible, even if we manage to leave Earth before our own sun expands to engulf us.

Dyson, therefore, does not believe in proton decay. He does acknowledge, however, that by 10^{60} years all

matter will be in liquid form, and by the phenomenal time of 10^{1300} years every element in the universe will decay to iron. This final insult to the continuity of life is due to a phenomenon called quantum tunneling, which allows, given enough time, interactions in atoms on the quantum scale to take place which are impossible today.

To allow for the continuation of life under these absurd conditions, Dyson invokes the ideas of Desmond Bernard, who is responsible for early X-ray crystallography work on DNA in the 1920's. Bernard considered life as "small sets of mental units capable of etheral communication."

Dyson takes this a step further, defining mathematically the information requirements and energy needs of intelligent life in his 'biological scaling laws'. He defines one second of consciousness as equalling 200 watts of energy, and finds that, as the expanding universe cools, the ratio of consciousness energy to the background universe temperature will increase, effectively making life easier. By the time matter begins to disintegrate, Dyson believes we will have evolved to a form of life compatible with the existing conditions, and will actually be getting more for our energy-dollar.

What this all means to us, here and now, may not be immediately apparent. It certainly is meaningless to speak of our fate as another, more successful life-form in an impossibly distant future, unless we realize that these time scales are real, and that the physics allowing these far-fetched scenarios is basically sound. Perhaps such discussion might lift us spiritually out of the homocentric, doom-and-gloom shell we have built for ourselves, perhaps giving an intrinsic value to life instead of weapons and immediate-return research.

Shakespeare's Hamlet said, "There are more things in heaven and in earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy, Horatio." Perhaps we need look no further for a meaning to the worlds spun by the fascinating Freeman Dyson.

...in the AI of the beholder

continued from page 1

if the program doesn't represent cognition then what does?

Searle answered this by throwing the old concept of causation back onto itself. He says that a brain is a physical object causing a mind; that is, it causes mental phenomena, the sequence of all our thoughts. In addition, he says that mental states are higher level features of the brain.

Some philosophers would say that if the mind is just a feature of the brain then you could not have a causal relation. David Hume said that you have to have separable phenomena in order to have a genuine causal relation. Searle challenges this by saying that both statements are obviously correct and therefore we should dispense with this old notion of causation.

"It is common in nature to have higher level features of a physical system to be entirely caused by the behavior of the micro-elements that compose that system," says Searle. An example is water. The higher level feature of liquidity is caused by the behavior of the individual water molecules. You cannot say that one molecule is wet and another is dry. The feature of liquidity only makes sense in terms of the whole system.

In short, there is no mind-body

problem. The problem lies in our inherited vocabulary that places mental in opposition to physical. Searle says, "There is nothing in the notion of the physical that excludes certain parts of the physical from being mental and nothing from the notion of mental that blocks all mental phenomena from being completely physical."

Descartes said, "I think; therefore, I am. I am a thinking being." Searle says, "I am a thinking being; therefore I am a physical being because conscious intelligent thinking is just a physical process going on in my neurophysiology."

The idea that the mind is not part of this ordinary biological world is a mistake that Descartes stuck us with, says Searle. We have been trying to get out of this mistake for the past 300 years. There are two notions that Searle leaves us with. The first is that of naive physicalism that holds that the world is made up of micro-particles. The second is that of naive mentalism which holds that we have mental states.

The mistake, Searle says, was to suppose that these two notions were ever in conflict. He says, "not only are they consistent with each other, but as far as we actually know anything about how the world works, they're both true."

hyde park

Controversy at McCord

McGill's McCord Museum and the oppression of Native Indians in Western Canada may seem almost completely unrelated. Yet tonight, McCord's directors have an important choice as to whether or not to participate in an event that Native groups feel would hurt the members of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band and assist their adversaries: the Governments of Alberta, Canada, and the Shell Oil Corporation.

McCord has been asked to lend several Native artifacts to Calgary's Glenbow Museum for its *SpiritSings* exhibition, the cultural highlight of the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. Glenbow is supported by both the Alberta government and Shell. Yet at the same time Alberta, Canada, and Shell are using Native culture for their own public relations, the Lubicon people are being denied their historic land claims to government land that is being used for oil drilling without regard for the Lubicon Cree. The Lubicon are protesting this hypocrisy and are being supported by all major national Native groups, including the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, and the Native Council of

Canada.

Most reputable museums have joined the boycott, in accordance with the policy of the International Confederation of Museums to display Native artifacts only if the exhibit is viewed as positive by the Native communities involved. Among the university museums that will *not* be sending items to the Calgary Games are the University of Pennsylvania, Cambridge, and Harvard's Peabody Museum. Professor Bruce Trigger, noted McGill anthropologist and the Emeritus Curator of Ethnology and Anthropology at McCord, has threatened to resign if McCord participates in the Glenbow exhibition.

Students should also pressure the museum by showing up at the board meeting tonight between 15h00 and 17h00 at the McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke St. W. SSMU and all McGill students should join Canada's Native peoples and the world's academic and museum community in urging McCord to refuse to participate in the oppression of Canada's Natives.

Mark Cameron
Arts Representative to Council

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, room B-17, Student Union Building, 9am - 3pm. Deadline is 2pm two weeks prior to date of publication.

McGill students: \$3.00 per day; \$7.00 for 3 consecutive days; \$2.00 per day for more than 3 consecutive days. McGill faculty and staff: \$4.00 per day. *Exact change only, please.* Boxed ads are available at the cost of \$4.00 per ad / per day — no discounts on boxing.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

341 — APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING

Upper duplex, 7 1/2, adjacent Westmount, woodwork, fireplace, partly furnished, heated \$900. Sublet January-June 1988. Please call Tony Doyle at 487-1605 evenings, 871-9990 office hours.

There are still double rooms to share in a beautiful renovated fraternity house. Must see - All inclusive - reasonable. 1 minute from campus. Call Steve, 398-0720 - Lambda Chi Alpha.

Sublet a nice, clean, cozy 2 1/2 only 5 minutes from McGill. \$275/month (negotiable). For more information call 848-0978 at night or before 9am. 3630 Durocher.

350 — JOBS

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Babysitter, experienced, loving, required (Monday to Friday) for active 3-year-old in N.D.G. 489-7354.

343 — MOVERS

Student mover will help you move at a very

reasonable cost. Local and long distance. Equipped, storage, insured (weekly Toronto). Call Turan at 747-0307.

352 — HELP WANTED

Wanted: French tutor, 1 hour during week-ends, in return for tuition in maths, thermo, physics, chemistry (highly qualified). Please call 931-8294, evenings.

Christmas Cash -- agents and distributors to sell personalized children's books. Top commissions, bonuses, training, flexible hours, full or part-time. For information: 487-5736 mornings.

Travel field opportunity. Gain valuable marketing experience while earning money. Campus representatives needed immediately for spring break trips to Florida. Call Campus Marketing at 1-800-423-5264.

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Tutoring: first year calculus and equivalent courses. 4 years experience, references available. Ph: 848-0269.

361 — ARTICLES FOR SALE

Glossy black fur coat to sell: \$175 or best offer. Elegant yet very simple, warm as toast. Call Elizabeth 849-4685, leave message with room-mates.

Honda CBX550 1983, 1000km, \$1000 now, \$1200 in the spring. Jacques 844-3700.

Remote control 4-wheel drive buggy. Component Pioneer car stereo: auto-reverse, equalizer, two amps, four speakers, console. Contact-lens thermal unit/cleaning tablets. Call 843-4063 nights.

Wool gloves \$4.95 (black, grey, brown, navy), wool socks 2 for \$5, white wool socks \$4.95, tuques \$4.95, EXXA Military Surplus 550 President Kennedy.

Vancouver one-way plane ticket for a girl from Montréal on November 25th, 1987, for \$175. Call 288-0732, leave message.

367 — CARS FOR SALE

1984 Chevy Cavalier 4-door, 5 speed. Silver, new Pirelli tires. AM-FM stereo cassette equalizer. Very good conditioner. 340-9470.

370 — RIDES

Ride wanted to Amherst, Mass. or anywhere remotely close for Halloween weekend. Will share expenses. Call 939-9631.

372 — LOST & FOUND

LOST -- Chrome Parker ball point pen. Of extreme sentimental value. Lost Friday, October 16 in Redpath or McLennan Stacks. Call Susie 281-6298 or at the Daily 398-6784.

FOUND -- Woman's leather jacket in Leacock. 845-9463. Leave message on answering machine.

374 — PERSONAL

Bonne fête Marc Proulx!... je ne savais pas ou envoyer ta carte de fête. Alors, voici tous mes voeux de bonheur pour ta fête. Rick, tardivement.

Jerry -- really enjoyed the coffee, 'naked' apple pie, and conversation last Friday night -- think you did too. Like to do it again. Call A.

Jeanette Stovel -- lost your phone number. Call James 484-5907.

If you think Alfred Hitchcock invented the 6-

spot, that Ollie North was hired by the KGB and that Shirley MacLaine was a grilled cheese sandwich in another life -- contact me. I'm 21, blonde male virgin who is interested in meeting a person for friendship and possibly a monogamous relationship. Send me a letter of # to P.O. Box 443, Station A, 1025 St-Jacques W., Montréal, H3C 2T1.

Feeling at the around Halloween? Miss those treats and tricks? We'll cheer you up at Nightline... 398-6246... 6pm till 3am, 7 days.

383 -- LESSONS OFFERED

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385 -- NOTICES

Frat Crawl shirts!! Pick your shirt up at 3581 Durocher (below P. Arthur) at any time, or else call 499-0002.

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity would like to thank McGill students for helping raise \$329 for Centraide. A good time was had by all...

McGill Ukrainian Students' Association presents a lecture by British author and historian Count Nicolai Tolstoy, speaking on the subject: *Justice East and West: War Criminality 40 Years Later*. Friday, October 30th, 8:00pm, Leacock 232.

Not going trick or treating, well the real loot lies in the bottom of 3480 McTavish. Halloween night, Gertrude's Pub transforms to something subterranean.

389 -- MUSICIANS WANTED

Drummer wanted to complete rock band. Covers and originals. Must be equipped. Call Mike 398-3713 or Debby 398-7413.



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OMAF presents:

SHOT DANCE III COSTUME PARTY

Raising funds for Third World health care

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 8:00 pm

McGill Student Union Ballroom

\$2.00 admission

Door prizes for best costumes !!

OMAF is a McGill-based registered charity

ELECTIONS 1987 Polling Station Locations

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

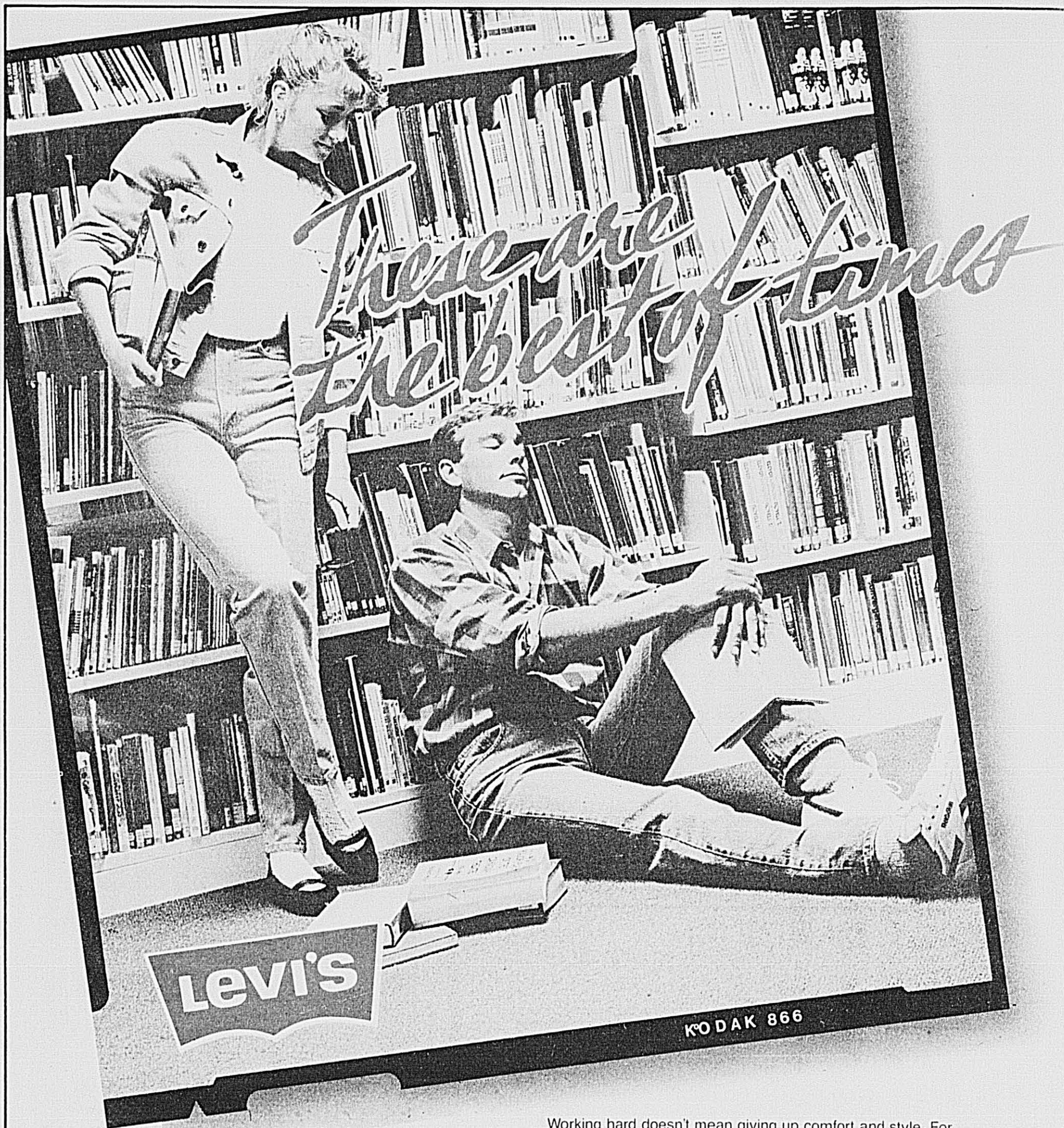
Bronfman
Leacock
McConnell Engineering
Royal Victoria College [11h - 14h]
University Centre
Bishop Mountain Hall [16h - 19h]
Thomson House [16h - 19h]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Arts Building [11h - 14h]
Bronfman
Burnside
Education [11h - 14h]
Leacock
McConnell Engineering
Redpath Undergraduate Library
Arthur Currie Gymnasium
Stewart Biology [South Block]
Strathcona Dentistry & Anatomy
Strathcona Music
University Centre
Wilson Hall

All Polling stations will be open from 10h to 16h unless otherwise indicated

CHRISTINA SBROCCHI
Chief Returning Officer



Working hard doesn't mean giving up comfort and style. For the quality and fit you want, there's only one choice: Levi's Red Tabs. 501's for men, 531's for women. And they last as long as memories. La Ouérâsse/Mark's Work Wearhouse carries Levi's Red Tabs in a full range of styles and sizes. And this semester, at any La Ouérâsse/Mark's Work Wearhouse store, your student card lets you enter to win one of 20 \$1,000 scholarships* from Levi's and La Ouérâsse/Mark's.

Levi's 501's for men. **\$46.95**

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To enter, drop this form off at any La Ouérâsse/Mark's Work Wearhouse store prior to November 15, 1987.

Name

Address

Telephone Student I.D.

University, College or Technical Institute

Draw will be made December 15, 1987. Winners must correctly answer a time-limited skill testing question.

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